

**Subject:** Opposition to SB 2278 – Protect Our Libraries and Support Inclusivity in Education

I am writing to express my strong opposition SB 2278 and urge you to vote DO NOT PASS. This bill would significantly harm the way our libraries serve the community and students across North Dakota.

The core of this proposal would require libraries to keep outdated materials and prevent them from updating their collections with more inclusive language. If an author revises their work to reflect more inclusive, respectful, or accurate representations—such as revising language to reflect more current understandings of race, gender, or identity—SB 2278 would force North Dakota libraries to continue offering the older, potentially outdated versions of the text, even if they no longer align with the modern understanding of inclusivity and equity.

This is not just a minor issue; it's a direct challenge to the very mission of our libraries, which are supposed to provide access to current, accurate, and diverse information. By requiring our libraries to hold onto outdated materials that fail to reflect the evolving language of inclusivity, this bill would hinder libraries' ability to stay current with social progress and academic advancements. It would effectively lock our communities and students into outdated, potentially harmful representations of reality, stifling their ability to engage with the world in a more informed and respectful way.

Libraries play a critical role in fostering education, inclusivity, and understanding. They should be spaces where everyone, regardless of their identity, feels welcome and respected. Preventing libraries from updating their collections to reflect more inclusive and accurate language is a step backward for our state and would set North Dakota libraries back years in their mission to provide valuable, relevant resources for all.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of this bill. If enacted, SB 2278 would severely restrict the ability of libraries to offer updated, diverse, and inclusive resources to our communities. We need policies that encourage growth and inclusivity, not ones that restrict the progress our libraries have made.

Please stand with the values of education, inclusivity, and progress. I ask that you oppose SB 2278 and ensure that North Dakota's libraries remain vibrant, inclusive spaces for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.